

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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UNCLAS SYDNEY 0400

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, AS
SUBJECT: INMARSAT - TECHNICAL PANEL MEETING, SYDNEY, FEB 15-22

REF: STATE 015456 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY, TECHNICAL PANEL EXPEDITIOUSLY AND SATISFACTORILY
CONSIDERED ALL MATTERS ON ITS AGENDA, AND OF PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE TO THE US, AGREED THAT EXISTING MARISAT SYSTEM
WOULD BE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS BASIS FOR AN INITIAL
INMARSAT SYSTEM. PANEL ANTICIPATES RESOLUTION AT ITS FOURTH
MEETING OF MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE PENDING RESOLUTION; THAT OF
ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED WITH FUTURE INMARSAT
SYSTEM.

2. FIFTEEN PREPCOM MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS FROM SEVEN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED ABOVE-REFERENCED MEETING.
MEETING CONSIDERED VARIOUS TECHNICAL MATTERS ASSIGNED IT BY
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. THE MORE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS ARE
DESCRIBED BELOW. THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EXISTING MARISAT SYSTEM
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WOULD BE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS THE BASIS FOR AN
INITIAL INMARSAT SYSTEM. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SERVICES
AND AN INCREASING CAPACITY DEMAND WILL MAKE IT
DESIRABLE TO INTRODUCE A NEW SYSTEM DESIGN AT A FUTURE
TIME. IT WAS AGREED THAT ANY NEW SYSTEM SHOULD BE
COMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTING MARISAT SATELLITES AND
EARTH STATIONS.

4. MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE PENDING RESOLUTION IS THAT OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED WITH FUTURE INMARSAT SYSTEM (I.E., SYSTEM WHICH FOLLOWS INITIAL RELIANCE ON MARISAT TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS, AS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2, ABOVE). ISSUE IS WHETHER TO UTILIZE CENTRALIZED OR DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT TECHNICAL ASPECTS, OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES, AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD AFFECT FINAL RESOLUTION. TECH PANEL HAS INVITED MEMBERS' VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF FOURTH PANEL MEETING WITH INTENT TO REACH CONSENSUS AT THAT TIME.

5. WORK CONTINUED ON STUDIES REGARDING PROVISIONS FOR DISTRESS AND SAFETY FACILITIES UNDER WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY CAPTAIN JAMES FEAR OF US DEL. BASIC APPROACH TO PROVISION OF DISTRESS CHANNELS AGREED TO BE THROUGH USE OF PRIORITY PRE-EMPTION RATHER THAN ASSIGNMENT OF DEDICATED CHANNELS. DISCUSSION WITH REGARD TO EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATION RADIO BEACONS(EPIRB) INDICATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR L-BAND SYSTEM AS OPPOSED TO 406 MHZ SYSTEM. FINAL RESOLUTION EPIRB ISSUE ANTICIPATED AT NEXT SESSION.

6. CONSIDERATION OF SPACE SEGMENT ALTERNATIVES
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FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON ANTICIPATED OFFER BEING PREPARED BY EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH US MARISAT JOINT VENTURE AND OTHERS), AND PROPOSALS FROM INTELSAT. COST CONSIDERATIONS IN REGARD TO THESE OPTIONS, AS WELL AS THOSE FOR AN INMARSAT SPECIFIED DEDICATED SYSTEM, WERE DOCUMENTED FOR USE BY ECONOMIC PANEL. CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POSITION, ALL OPTIONS WERE EXAMINED OBJECTIVELY, AND FINAL REPORT INDICATES NO PREFERENCE FOR ANY PARTICULAR ALTERNATIVE.

7. OTHER MATTERS ADDRESSED INCLUDED:
A. UPDATING LIST OF SERVICE CAPABILITIES
B. DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF LAND AND SHIP EARTH STATIONS.
C. UPDATING OF OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.
D. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS.
E. CONTINUATION OF STUDIES ON SHIP TERMINAL STANDARDS AND SPARES PHILOSOPHY.

8. PANEL'S FOURTH MEETING WILL BE AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED IN LENINGRAD ON 3-7 JULY 1978 AT INVITATION USSR.

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